

readiness group, South Dakota National Guard families are provided with an extended network of support and resources to help them through their time apart. Among her many tasks, Tammy maintains the telephone tree, publishes newsletters, provides baked goods to soldiers at monthly drills, organizes family events, and prepares families for possible deployments. Countless lives have been touched by her efforts.

Tammy is dedicated and committed to her volunteer work; she has been the family readiness group leader for the past 11 years. She was recently recognized for her efforts when she was presented with the AMVETS PNC John S. Lorec National Guard Volunteer of the Year award at the National Guard Family Program conference in St. Louis, MO.

I am pleased that Tammy's efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated with this prestigious award. I applaud her for her years of hard work. Tammy's work in our communities and State is a testament to her selfless service to our country. Tammy's efforts on behalf of all those that are currently serving in the National Guard are a shining example of patriotism, and we can all be inspired by her dedication and service.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of University of Sioux Falls. Over the course of its history, USF has continuously produced extraordinary graduates with a Christian liberal arts education. In the modern, high-tech, and competitive environment in which we live, USF students are equipped with the skills that are essential for success.

In education, technology, and research, USF is at the forefront of academic and cultural achievement, with enrollment now at 1,700 and a diverse student body from over 20 States. For 125 years, the university has helped students realize their potential by offering them a quality education and a positive social and religious environment. USF graduates are well-equipped to succeed in a competitive world, delivering countless benefits to organizations and communities close to home and around the globe.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor the University of Sioux Falls for its 125 years of outstanding service. I strongly commend their hard work and dedication, and I am very pleased that their substantial efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated.●

TRIBUTE TO RICK AND KATHY CLARKE

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise to honor two great Oklahomans, Rick and Kathy Clarke, who are in Washington,

DC, for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's annual Angels in Adoption Gala. I was pleased to select Rick and Kathy as 2008 Angels in Adoption because of their great commitment to adoption at both a personal and professional level.

When Rick Clarke served for 5 years as a judge in juvenile court, working with abused and neglected children every day, both he and his wife, Kathy, formed a desire to help children who are most in need—those without families. Today, Rick dedicates part of law practice to adoption cases. He serves as a volunteer attorney through Tulsa Lawyers for Children, as a guardian ad litem through court appointments, and is on the board of Heritage Family Services, a Tulsa-based adoption agency. Kathy has served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children. She also currently works on special education issues and is a member of the PTA.

However, it is this family's personal story that sets it apart. The Clarkes have personally participated in the adoption process for 13 years and have adopted nine children. Throughout these years, the Clarke family has faced tragedies, hardships, and obstacles. Yet they continue to grow as a family, both in number and in character.

The Clarke's first adopted child was a 3-year-old boy from Oklahoma. The next two young children joined the family from Russia after being diagnosed with medical complications. The Clarkes later adopted three unrelated girls—aged 15, 13, and 8—through Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Lastly, they provided homes to two sisters from Liberia and an older boy from Ethiopia.

The faith and perseverance of Rick and Kathy Clarke enables them to overcome the challenges of providing a permanent and loving home to so many children. Remaining steadfast in their dedication and belief that God has a special plan for every child, Rick and Kathy have raised each of their nine children to be productive, healthy, and strong leaders in their schools and communities.

The Clarkes truly represent the blessings and the power of adoption. I am pleased to congratulate Rick and Kathy Clarke, Oklahoma's 2008 Angels in Adoption, and to welcome them to our Nation's Capital for this special honor.●

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD O. BOURNE

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, several weeks back I had the great pleasure of visiting with a constituent I would like to honor today. Milwaukee resident Harold O. Bourne recently received the Federal Aviation Administration's Wright Brothers Master Pilot award for flying 50 years without incident.

Mr. Bourne has given much to his country over the years. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1951, entered flight

school in 1953 and served one tour in Korea, two tours in Germany and two tours in Vietnam. In 1980, after 30 years of service he retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel and master army aviator. Upon his retirement, he moved to Milwaukee where his love for and expertise in aviation was put to good use. Mr. Bourne embarked on what would become a 20-year career with Astronautics Corporation of America, a world leader in supplying military and commercial electronics for aviation.

At 78, Mr. Bourne is still flying. He is a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. Harold and his wife of 57 years, Anne, have given much of themselves over the years, not only to aviation but to their community and their church. And for that I congratulate and honor them.●

TRIBUTE TO MARK MILLAR

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I congratulate Mark Millar on receiving the 2008 Angels in Adoption Award, a tremendous honor that highlights his tireless commitment to achieving permanent family connections for children in foster care in Maine. What a well-deserved accolade for such an ennobling endeavor.

Mark Millar began his career as a protective services worker and has been a critical part of Casey Family Services in Portland for more than 20 years. In that time, he and his dedicated staff have helped transform the lives of countless families, by promoting kinship care, providing counseling and other services to strengthen families postadoption, and helping Maine reduce the amount of time required to reach legal permanence when a child enters foster care.

Undoubtedly, we as a nation can and must do more to better equip families who sacrifice so much to provide safe, loving homes for children in foster care. For many families, the decision to open their home to a child is easy, but it can also be emotionally trying and financially taxing. That's why Mark Millar's work at Casey Family Services is so indispensable and profoundly worthy of this distinction. At a time where Federal dollars for child welfare services are regrettably too few, Mark Millar and Casey Family Services offer families a support system that is dependable and viable.

Mark Millar has also performed remarkable work in helping teens prepare for the challenges of adulthood, whether through his efforts with the First Jobs program, which provides initial and transitional employment opportunities at Hannaford for youth aged 15-21, or Casey's outdoor work-readiness and skill development program. And he has been selfless in his extraordinary contributions and inspiring through the power of his benevolent example. In short, Mark understands and lives out what American novelist, Herman Melville, once eloquently described in words . . . "We